(c) The Quality of the effluents resulting from the operation of UCIL as well as the levels of radioactivity/radiation in the flora and fauna in and around the area are regularly monitored by the Health Physics Unit of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy. All the data indicate that the effluent quality and measured values are within the safety parameters prescribed for this prupose.

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

*126. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Crop Insurance Scheme presently in operation in the country;

(b) the number of persons covered under the scheme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government have, in recent past, reviewed the scheme; if so, the details thereof including amendments/ suggestions so required;

(d) whether the farmers organisations/ representatives have been included in the finalisation of Crop Insurance Scheme;

(e) the main crops that will be covered in the scheme; and

(f) by when it is likely to cover the whole country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Salient features of the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme CCIS which has been in operation in the country since Kharif, 1985 are given in the Statement I. (*See* below)

(b) A statement indicating State-wise details of farmers covered under the CCIS during the last three years is at Statement-II(*See* below)

(c) to (f) A review was made and the suggestions from different quarters i.e. States, Members of Parliament, farmers organisations such as Farmers' Parliamentary Forum and Federation of Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association were received. The main suggestions/demands for improving the scope and contents of the scheme were:

—to bring in more crops into the purview of CCIS;
—for extending its scope to cover non-loanee farmers;
—for lowering the unit area;
—for compensating crop losses rather than insuring the loans taken;
—for a provision for group-insurance;
—to include damage caused by diseases/pests; and
—to make the scheme financially viable.

The extend the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks under the existing CCIS the Government has decided to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance. Scheme MCCIS from Kharif, 1999 season. Under the new scheme it is proposed to cover all farmers, both loanees and non-loanees and some cash/horticultural crops in addition to the crops already covered, subject to the availability of yield data.

Statement-I

The salient features of the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) are:—

— It is an area based and credit linked scheme which is voluntary in nature.

— All farmers growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), oilseeds and pulses by availing agricultural loan from the cooperative credit institutions, regional rural banks and commercial banks are eligible for crop coverage under the scheme.

— The sum insured is equal to the crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per farmer.

— The premium payable is 2% for wheat, paddy and millets and 1% for oilseeds and pulses of the sum insured.

— 50% of the premium payable by small and marginal farmers is subsidized equally between Central and State Governments.

— Indemnity claims are shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 2:1.

— If the actual average yield in any area notified under this scheme falls short of guaranteed yield fixed for that area, the farmers who have availed agricultural loans for insured crops are entitled to an indemnity under the scheme to the extent of shortfall in the yield vis-a-vis the guaranteed yield.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10,62,739	12,64,659	12,17,696
2.	Assam	301	475	738
3.	Bihar	1,33,895	1,65,217	97,634
4.	Goa	1,403	1,258	1,296
5.	Gujarat	8,54,581	9,05,443	9,13,628
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1,024	1,370	838
7.	Karnataka	3,38,512	2,99,661	3,24,358
8.	Kerala	33,303	36,012	34,424
9.	Madhya Pradesh	10,35,745	10,27,065	11,79,373
10.	Maharashtra	10,43,815	10,13,653	11,45,328
11.	Meghalaya	1,127	830	388
12.	Orissa	4,58,523	4,51,762	4,59,065
13.	Tamilnadu	1,72,168	1,60,779	1,33,990
14.	Tripura	1,113	83	69
15.	West Bengal	5,17,760	5,17,251	4,90,915
16.	A&N Islands	0	228	240
17.	Pondicherry	1,730	1,249	1,362
	TOTAL	56,57,739	58,46,985	60,01,342

Cultivation of Oil Palm

*127. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance cultivation of Oil Palm in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the nurseries and demonstration units working in Orissa; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government propose to increase area under oil palm cultivation in the country from 49,227 hectares in 1997-98 to an estimated 1.22 lakh hectares by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) One oil palm nursery set up in Bhubneshwar is at present working for raising oil palm seedlings. No processing unit has been set up in Orissa so far due to inadequate availabilty of fresh fruit bunches of oil palm.